

1 **WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

2 1. A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of skin neoplasm
3 comprising a therapeutically effective amount of arsenic trioxide and a
4 pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

5 2. The pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the
6 skin neoplasm is selected from the group consisting of subcutaneous tumors,
7 primary skin cancer, melanomatous cancer and metastatic cutaneous cancer.

8 3. The pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claim 2, wherein the
9 primary skin cancer is selected from the group consisting of basic cell carcinoma,
10 squamous cell carcinoma and Merkel cell carcinoma.

11 4. The pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claim 3 in the form of a
12 cream, lotion, gel, ointment or paste.

13 5. A dosage form suitable for topical administration which comprises a
14 composition as claimed in claim 3.

15 6. The dosage form as claimed in claim 5, wherein the dosage form
16 further comprises viscid substance.

17 7. The dosage form as claimed in claim 6, wherein the viscid substance
18 is starch or polymer.

19 8. The dosage form as claimed in claim 7, wherein the polymer is
20 polyarylic acid, carbomer, hydroxyethyl cellulose, chitosan, hydroxypropyl
21 cellulose, hydroxypropyl methylcellulose, sodium carboxymethylcellulose,
22 polyvinyl alcohol or a mixture thereof.

23 9. The dosage form as claimed in claim 8 in the form of a gel.

24 10. The dosage form as claimed in claim 9, wherein the gel comprises by

1 weight based on the total weight of the gel

2 0.05 % arsenic trioxide;

3 1.5 % carbomer 940;

4 5.5 % PEG; and

5 0.125 % propyl paraben.

6 11. A method of treating skin neoplasm in a human comprising
7 administering to a human in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a
8 pharmaceutical composition comprising arsenic trioxide.

9 12. A method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the skin neoplasm is
10 selected from the group consisting of subcutaneous tumors, primary skin cancer,
11 melanomatous cancer and metastatic cutaneous cancer.

12 13. A method as claimed in claim 12, wherein the primary skin cancer is
13 selected from the group consisting of basal cell carcinoma, squamous cell
14 carcinoma and Merkel cell carcinoma.

15 14. A method as claimed in claim 13, wherein the composition is in the
16 form of a cream, lotion, solution, gel, ointment or paste.

17 15. A method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the composition is
18 administered topically.

19 16. A method as claimed in claim 15, wherein arsenic trioxide is present
20 at about 0.01 to about 1 mg/g of the composition.

21 17. A method as claimed in claim 15, wherein arsenic trioxide is present
22 at about 0.1 to about 0.5 mg/g of the composition.